

Workshop on National Rurban Mission (NRuM)
ICAPs, Status and Way Forward
(Eastern Region)
13th April 2016
Ranchi, Jharkhand

Workshop Proceedings

A Regional Workshop was organized for the Eastern states viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The primary objective of the workshop was to orient the states on ICAP preparation and various related modalities. The workshop also gave an opportunity to the States to share the work done under NRuM so far and the way forward.

The workshop began with the Special Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand, Mr B Njalingappa, welcoming all the participants and representatives of various eastern States.

Ms Vineeta Hariharan, Chief Programme Manager, NRuM, Ministry of Rural Development presented an overview of the Rurban Mission. The objectives and expected outcomes from the workshop was also shared with the participants.

This was followed by an address by Mr NN Sinha, Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand. The importance of the Rurban Mission was highlighted and emphasis was given to the fact that the mission needs to be expanded further to ease the transition of the rural conglomerations in the urban periphery becoming urban in the near future.

Shri Amit Khare, Development Commissioner of the Government of Jharkhand in his address made the following key points:

- Such Regional workshops promote regional cooperation and is a very welcome process.
- Two salient features of the Rurban Mission, which make it unique, are its focus on rural planning and the impetus on economic growth as an outcome.
- Recently launched programmes like PM Mudra Yojana, Start-up India will create a support infrastructure for realizing the benefits of NRuM
- Citizens should be kept at the center while preparing the ICAP. The recent initiative of the Government of Jharkhand, Yojana Banawo Abhiyan was completely based on bottom-up approach where people themselves prepared the plans.
- NRuM should focus on end-to-end implementation of various projects taken up unlike many other schemes where assets created are neither owned nor used by the targeted beneficiaries.

This was followed by the first technical session on ICAPs. Ms Vineeta Hariharan, Chief Programme Manager, NRuM gave a detailed presentation on the Integrated

Cluster Action Plan. An overview of the entire process of ICAP preparation was given. The session was broken for various interactions and clarifications from the participants.

This was followed by a brief presentation by Shri. Adarsh Kumar, World Bank who highlighted the various outcomes envisaged under the programme. It was emphasized that the States should narrow down their focus on achieving one or two outcomes for tangible results. He also gave some examples of successful convergence models practiced in different States under MGNREGA.

In the second technical session anchored and presented by Ms Vineeta Hariharan, Chief Programme Manager, NRuM the findings of the secondary research done on the each State Statute dealing with Town and Country Planning was presented. The provisions in various Statutes that deal with planning in the respective States were highlighted. The process to be adopted for declaration of clusters as planning areas was then discussed with the town planning representatives of each State and a dialogue was facilitated between the RD department and the Town Planning department. This led to clarity on the way forward in the process of the declaration of clusters as planning areas.

This was followed by a presentation from each State on the steps taken so far under NRuM and the way forward based on the templates circulated by MoRD. The States also gave a brief overview on the various clusters and their features based on the template circulated by MoRD. (The time lines committed are presented in the key findings note)

Mr. Rakesh Bangera, NRuM, gave a detailed presentation on procedural aspects of setting up of various institutional frameworks. He detailed out on the various processes that the States could adopt to put in place various institutions as detailed out in the State Institutional Frameworks.

Respective States shared the following points during the open-house discussion:

Chhattisgarh:

- CGF for Tribal and Non-Tribal clusters should be the same as cost of implementing infrastructure projects will be more in the tribal areas considering the difficult terrain and geography.
- MoRD should assist facilitate the States in accessing CSR funds.
- Such regional workshops could be a platform for the States to share their best practices.

Bihar:

- MoRD may advise Ministries to allocate additional funds under their respective schemes for utilization in the Rurban Clusters
- ICAP preparation will get delayed as Panchayat Elections are underway in the State, which would get over by June 15th.

Jharkhand:

- Convergence has been largely successful with the schemes of Rural Development therefore in NRuM the focus should be largely on converging resources available within the RD schemes.
- There is a possibility of audit objections if different line departments work in a single project. Therefore the scope of work under NRuM should be well defined.
- Clarification was raised as to whether an entirely new project which doesn't fall under the purview of any existing scheme, be taken up under NRuM using the CGF? To this CPM, NRuM clarified that as long as the CGF contributes to not more than 30% of the total cost of the Project Cost towards development of the cluster, this should be possible.
- With the flexibility in taking up projects, there could be a possibility of spending only the CGF with less focus on convergence.
- A cluster in Khunti sub-district may be considered additionally for the state of Jharkhand.

Odisha:

- GIS based planning could be adopted to find out intervention areas.
- The modalities for distributing the CGF across various revenue villages may be clarified. CPM, NRuM clarified that the same could be done based on the need identified in each village while preparing the ICAP.

Principal Secretary, RDD, chaired the valedictory session wherein he sought the feedback from each of the States regarding their learning from the workshop. CPM, NRuM summarized the proceedings. Further, representatives from each State, shared their learning and collectively stressed on the usefulness of the workshop.

This was followed by a brief concluding remarks by the Principal Secretary, RDD in which he highlighted the following things;

- Reaching out to other Stakeholders including PRI representatives, field officials, MP/MLA etc and bringing them onboard will be a challenge for the States.
- ICAP is much beyond the IPPE exercise in terms of its outreach and multiple components involved.
- Provision of LPG connection could be an effective entry point activity for building the confidence of communities.

The workshop came to an end with a vote of thanks by the Shr. Bhimappa Lalli, PMRDF, RDD, Jharkhand.
